conducted in four States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil nadu and Orissa have revealed that its prevalence rate varies from 0.6% to 25% in the studied population. According to ICMR, the disease is also prevalent in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and North-Eastern region of the country.

According to ICMR through its network of institutes/centres etc. it has carried out intervention and follow up activities in regard to Sickle Cell Anaemia. As these disorders are hereditary in nature and there is no cure for them, diagnostic facilities for sickle cell disorder and other genetic defects, carrying out population genetic survey to detect carriers and sufferers, providing health education, genetic counselling, marriage counselling and pre-natal diagnosis wherever required are being provided.

Information relating to financial assistance from abroad to some NGOs and social institutions and monitoring arrangements thereof is not centrally available.

Crimes in City Hospitals

3972. SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that city hospitals are fast becoming dens for criminals where heinous crimes like rapes, molestation, kidnapping of infants and even murder have been taking place;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents which took place during each of the last three years; and

(c) the details of the remedial steps proposed to be taken to arrest the rising trend of such crimes in hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) In Safdarjang Hospital, a case of rape of minor girl was reported in the year 2004 in which the accused doctor had been arrested. In so far as other Central Government Hospitals like Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals (LHMC) are concerned, no such cases of crimes like rapes, molestation, kidnapping of infants/ murder have been reported during the last three years.

Adequate measures are being taken to provide safety and security to women patients as well as the workers in the Central Government Hospitals in Delhi. Instructions are issued to Hospital Authorities from time to time to ensure the safety and security to all women patients and staff in the hospitals. The security arrangements are monitored by the designated officers of each of the hospitals. Instructions have also been issued to all State Governments to provide adequate protection to all women patients and staff in their hospitals.

Cardio Vascular Health and Menopause

3973. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that women in India are rapidly losing their cardio vascular edge over men particularly after menopause;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent heart troubles among women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, women in all countries have lower cardiovascular risk prior to menopause, in comparison to men. This advantage disappears over time, after menopause. The rising prevalence of obesity, leading to Diabetes, increase in consumption of tobacco and sedentary life style further contribute to reduction if any in gender-related advantage after menopause. Health awareness and education campaign have been carried out as these are lifestyle practices.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also initiated steps to obtain 'in principle' approval of the Planning Commission to start a National Programme on prevention of Cardio Vascular Diseases.

AIDS monitoring by NACO

3974. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per report of CAG, in the four years of project period i.e., 1999-2003 NACO has been able to utilise only Rs. 444